




**GREG
JEFFERY**
FOR ATA
PRESIDENT

#mypresidentjeffery

WORKING TO ADVANCE OUR PROFESSION TOGETHER.

MR. JEFFERY IS A TEACHER FROM OUR LOCAL – VISIT [HIS WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

THE
BUGLER
ATA Local #28



January 2017

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

From the Local President

by Lynn Johnston

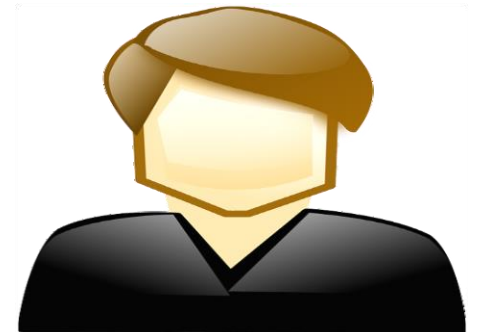
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to 2017. Every new year brings with it a new beginning. Some people make resolutions, some break resolutions and others carry on writing 2016 on everything until March. (I fit into the latter group). Regardless of how you celebrate a new year, I encourage you all to embrace it with optimism, hope and a renewed sense of respect and awe for the important work you do each and every day.

2017 is going to be a year of change. It has already begun. By now, many of you are aware that we are entering into an election

period for the provincial association. For a detailed description on "What the Heck is PEC?" [check out this link](#). This is a significant time of change within Barnett House. We will be voting for a new president, two new vice presidents and a number of new District Reps. We are [welcoming Dennis Theobald into the position of executive secretary](#). Mr. Theobald will be replacing Dr. Gordon Thomas when he retires in January 2018. I urge you to familiarize yourselves with the candidates.

(continued on page 2)



Who's on PEC?

Although the Provincial Executive Council election has not yet happened, a few positions have been confirmed. *Page 5*

WIN

Contest Details

Find out who won in November and check out the information for our January contest! *Page 6*

(From the Local President continued)

Attend the political forum in February. Read the materials that come your way, [sign up for an online account](#) and VOTE. This is your association and you need to be assured that your vote contributed to selecting the best candidate to represent you.

Locally, we will also be running elections. The president's position will be open and I will not be running again, as I will be entering into the post work phase of life called retirement. All other executive positions will be available for interested members to put their names forward and I encourage each of you to consider running for one of these positions. If you are not ready to commit to an executive position, then please consider joining one of the many committees. We are all teachers supporting other teachers and we could really use some more help!

May 2017 be a year filled with hope, promise and good health. My wish for all of you is that you accomplish the personal and professional goals you have committed to achieving this year.

Candidate Forum

Hear the vision from the next leaders of the Association.

Candidates for President



Greg Jeffery

Kelly Maroney

Robert Twerdoclib

Candidates for Vice President



Greg Carabine

Myrna McLean

Jason Schilling

Jenny Regal

Diane Sellars-Myschysyn



Organized and Hosted by:
 Elk Island Local 28
 Elk Island Catholic Teachers Local 21
 Greater St. Albert Catholic Teachers'
 Local 23
 Sturgeon ATA Local 27

Wednesday Feb. 15, 7pm
Enjoy Centre
 101 Riel Drive, St. Albert
 Light refreshments provided

Questions can be directed to lpeo@sturgeonteachers.ca

GREG JEFFERY - MEET THE CANDIDATE!

Greetings colleagues.

While many of you know me I will introduce myself for those who do not. My name is [Greg Jeffery and I am a candidate for President of the Alberta Teachers' Association.](#)

I have taught my entire career in Elk Island or Strathcona as we were known previous to 1995. For the last four years I have been working as the vice president of the ATA. For ten years before that, I was the district representative that represented Elk Island on Provincial Executive Council. I was president of our Local from 1999 to 2003 and led our teachers through the strike in 2002. I was also EPC chair and secretary during my 14 years on the Local executive.

Here is some of my platform.

Advance the Autonomy of the Teaching Profession and Reinforce the Status of Teachers as Professionals

There has been a slow but steady push of outside influences on our classrooms. Whether it be government or board initiatives, teachers are being usurped as the decision makers for what is best for their students. In the [Association's Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities](#) item one states, "Teachers

have the right to base diagnosis, planning, methodology and evaluation on professional knowledge and skills". We must push back against the standardized assessments that invade our instructional time. We are professionals and we know what is best for our students. The end of PATs was announced in 2013 but they still remain. The replacement in grade three, the SLAs, are far too onerous and the teacher is not in control of the results. This must change.

Work to Provide Economic Certainty for Teachers

This work is ongoing with the work of our Central Table Bargaining Committee. I have been an EPC chair in my Local and am [presently chairing the Association Bargaining Committee](#). I was part of the Provincial Executive that brought about the unfunded liability agreement in 2007 and as president I led my Local through the 2002 strike. I also stood with then President Larry Booi when we challenged Ralph Klein to arrest us using his oppressive piece of legislation which followed the strike. I have always, and will continue to stand up for teachers' rights and security.

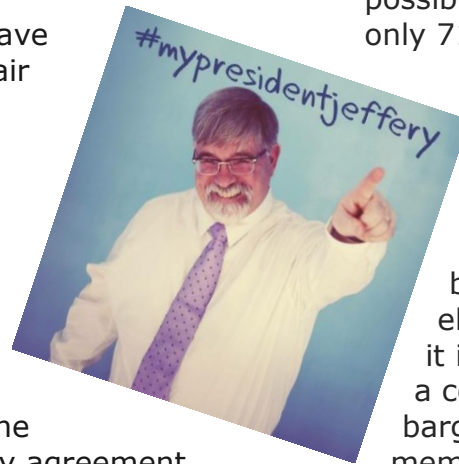
Protect Public Education as the First Choice for Albertans

I have always spoken out for Public Education throughout my career. When the Association formed the Public Education Action Centre in 1995 I ensured that my Local participated in all the initiatives possible. I handed out 500 t-shirts to Elk Island teachers at the Rally for Public Education at the legislature in 1997 and organized and spoke at rallies on the steps of the legislature in 2002. I regularly speak with MLAs of all political stripes about the importance of Public Education in building a civil society.

While I would like to have all of your votes that is not possible right now as only 71% of our teachers have created a profile on the ATA website. That login will be needed to cast a ballot in the election and when it is time to vote on a central table bargaining memorandum. If you haven't yet done so, [please create your login.](#)

Another possibility for supporting my campaign is to receive periodic emails from the campaign and to consider forwarding them to Alberta teachers that you know. If you are willing to do this please email your consent to pafroese@gmail.com

Thanks for taking the time to read this and please remember to vote on Mar13.





Retirement Session

by Irene Deatcher

[ATA Local #28 will be hosting a retirement seminar](#) on Saturday, March 11. It will be held in the Bev Facey Library from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

This session is for interested members and their partners. You do not need to be retiring this year to benefit from this session. Anyone considering retirement within the next 5 to 10 years will gain valuable information to aid in planning for the future and will have a chance to ask questions.

During full day sessions, the ATA representative will [present information](#) on the Alberta Teachers' Pension Plan, postretirement health benefits, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and other retirement income sources. Please RSVP to Lana Bilodeau by March 3.

RESOURCES FOR RETIRED TEACHERS

From the ARTA website

"The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) was established in 1963 as a province-wide organization. Its goal was to offer social activities to its members and to look at

issues affecting retired teachers.

Since then, ARTA has grown to provide such services to its members as: health care, insurance, wellness information and activities, advocacy, retirement planning, technology information, scholarship award, as well as travel plans, social activities and other benefits."

For more information, [check out their website](#).



Imagine YOUR future!!

THE PEOPLE OF PEC

(PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)



**Dennis
Theobald**
Next Executive
Secretary

With Gordon Thomas set to retire from the role of executive secretary in 2018, PEC set out to find successor to the position. PEC made its decision on January 19th.

Mr. Theobald has been with the ATA for over 15 years. His positions at the ATA included working as communications coordinator and as the associate executive secretary.

From his previous roles and responsibilities, Mr. Theobald brings his skills in publicity and public relations. His experience with government relations, political strategies and political engagement will also be invaluable.

The job of executive secretary is complex and demanding. With that in mind, it was decided that Mr. Theobald would work alongside Mr. Thomas until officially taking over on February 1st of next year.

We congratulate Dennis on his new role!

(Information is from the article "[Association Names next ATA Executive Secretary](#)" by Cory Hare - accessed from www.teachers.ab.ca on January 22, 2017)



Paul Froese
District
Representative
for the
Edmonton
District

Paul Froese [first became our district representative last February](#) when he won the by-election to fill the position vacated by Sean Brown.

The ATA recently announced that Mr. Froese has been appointed by acclamation to continue in the position. The executive for Elk Island Local #28 greeted the news enthusiastically!

Over the past year, Paul has done an amazing job advocating for our local. By consistently being accessible and ready to answer questions, and through his wealth of knowledge and strength in clear communication, he has supported your executive and all of us who work within Elk Island and the other locals of the Edmonton district.

Thanks for your dedication and commitment, Paul! We are honoured to be able to continue to have you as part of our team.

MATERNITY LEAVE



by Linda Butler Dunn

We had an exceptional Maternity Leave session on December 15. Some highlighted points were:

- If possible, take a Maternity session prior to starting your family.
- Your rights to Maternity leave come from: the [Employment Standards Code](#), Arbitration decisions, [Human Rights Tribunals](#) and your [collective agreement](#).
- Maternity and Parental leaves are entitlements.
- Maternity Benefits are different from Parental. Maternity is for the delivering partner. Parental can be used by either partner or split. There are currently 37 weeks available. Both parents must be eligible if the benefit is to be split.

- Parental leave is also available for adopting parents.
- Partners are currently entitled to 4 operational days of leave **once the baby is born**. Before baby is born (labour and delivery) you can access family illness.
- You need 600 hours in the previous 52 weeks to access Employment Insurance benefits
- Other income that you earn while on maternity leave is deducted dollar for dollar from the EI you receive.
- You need to pay for benefits if you choose to keep them while on leave. Please, before considering dropping them for your leave, speak to someone at Teacher Welfare or your local before making your final decision. There could be circumstances that make you ineligible to restart them upon your return.

If you have other questions or concerns [about Maternity Leave](#) or Benefits, you can contact Teacher Welfare at 780-447-9400

CUPID CONTEST



by Irene Deatcher

Congratulations go out to Sydney Munsterman at Pine Street Elementary School! She won a \$100 gift card for Amazon by finding Santa. He was hiding by the way with the article about "Claus" 9.5 funds. Thanks go out to the 70 other people who played along and submitted correct answers!

This month, you have to find "Cupid" but... it won't be so easy! He is hiding in a phrase just like CAT is hiding in the beginning letters of "Calling All Teachers!" If you find him, [email the phrase to me](#) – please put "Cupid Contest" as your email heading.

Because of the wonderful response in November, we will offer TWO prizes of \$50 gift cards for either Amazon or Chapters. Correct entries received by February 14th will be entered into a draw. The two winners will be notified on February 15th and will be offered their choice of gift card. Good luck!!

TEACHER BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TBAC)

by Deneen Zielke

Our recent meeting with our board representatives and superintendent allowed us to address concerns presented at previous meetings and some that have arisen from the updating of administrative procedures.

Regarding staffing procedures, Human Resources is developing a communications strategy that will include the posting of staffing guidelines in Staff Connect with a link in the Weekly Communications bulletin as the spring staffing session begins. Teachers are reminded that job postings will be made available to teachers on a continuous contract first, then proceed to probationary teachers assuming a continuous contract, before being opened to others.

Teachers are asked to make sure to apply for positions where their training and experience are suited.

We have invited Lynn Jones, Director of Human Resources to attend a future Local Council meeting to explain the communication strategy, staffing procedures, and answer questions. We thank Lynn in advance for her assistance. As always, teachers are asked to contact Lynn or Human Resources staff to ask questions and receive the most accurate advice.

Lynn Jones and the Human Resources department have been responsive to several concerns raised at our last meeting regarding AESOP. Mobile apps that notify substitute teachers when jobs are posted have been blocked and cannot access our system. Job classifications have been changed to ensure appropriately trained substitute teachers are filling jobs in specialty areas. Math and Science are no longer grouped together and second languages have been separated into German, Spanish, and Ukrainian. Phys. Ed has been added as well.

When requiring a substitute with specific skills it is best, when possible, to prearrange a substitute. To assist with this a feature has been added to ASEOP that allows teachers to access the substitutes' phone numbers and make

contact. To clarify the difference between the Preferred and Favourite 5 lists, we were told that a teacher can add multiple preferred substitutes to the Preferred list. The Favourite 5 list is for your top five choices. When a job is posted both lists will be able to see the job posting, but those on the Favorite 5 list will also be sent an immediate email.

Concerns brought to our committee regarding the workload associated with the redo/rewrite component of the [assessment policy \(AP 360\)](#) were shared. Mr. Liguori indicated that the intent of the policy is to allow students who are experiencing difficulties the opportunity to complete activities provided by the teacher that would increase their understanding and then be given the opportunity to improve their mark. Mr. Liguori was receptive to our concerns and will work with administrators to make the process consistent amongst schools and manageable for teachers.

Upon review of [AP 417 Staff Reduction](#) it was noted that a recognition of seniority that was in the policy previously was now absent. Mr. Liguori stated that they will look at when it was removed.

Several staff are considering, or are currently enrolled in the district leadership course. Concerns were expressed regarding [the application and selection process](#). We were asked to communicate to staff that should an individual prefer, they can ask a previous supervisor for their recommendation. Individuals are encouraged to contact Lynn Jones for further information.

Finally, a discussion was had regarding professional development. Topics included clause 9.5 forms, Travel Outside Alberta forms, and grid costs when absences exceed three days. This is a topic that we will be returning to at our next meeting.

As you can see there was a lot to discuss. We appreciate the willingness of our board members and senior administration to listen and engage in thoughtful and productive dialogue. Through this process we have, and hope to continue, to work cooperatively to seek understanding, answer questions, and solve problems.



Convention: Useful, Professional, Interesting Days!

by Irene Deatcher

I know that I gave some tips last month about attending convention but it doesn't hurt to have a 'refresher'. Also I have added a few different ideas:

1. Plan ahead by [looking at the sessions being offered](#). The 'SCHED' program can help you keep track of options so that you can make other choices if the session you want is full. I make a hard copy of my 'wish list' to refer to throughout the day. There is a [video about using SCHED](#) which may be helpful.
2. At this point, many pre-registered sessions are filled but you can still check online. **The registrations close on January 30th.**
3. Get social!! Start your convention right by [attending the NCTCA President's Social](#) on

Wednesday, February 8th. It will be held at the McLeod Tavern from 8-11pm.

4. Meet friends for lunch! One great idea for this is attending the [Partners in Education Luncheon](#) (February 10th) featuring Gabrielle Scrimshaw as the guest speaker. Tickets are \$45. Doors open at 11 am.
5. If you were interested in an alternate PD activity for the day but did not submit your application, that window is now closed. Requests had to be approved by January 20th.
6. Familiarize yourself with your [professional responsibilities](#) regarding attending convention – attendance IS your [professional obligation](#).
7. If you have any questions (Can subs attend? What if I'm on leave? What happens if I get sick that day? Do I attend if I teach part time?), please [check out the FAQ on the ATA website](#).
8. Keep track of your admission badge! I put mine in my purse as soon as I received it.
9. Connect to NCTCA through [Facebook](#) or through [Twitter](#). This can keep you aware of updates and session changes / cancellations.
10. Visit the vendors to check their displays and enter contests!

QUICK BITS

by Irene Deatcher

Browse through these 'bits' for fast facts and information for our local.

PRISM INFORMATION SESSION

PRISM - Professionals Respecting Individual Sexual (and Gender) Minorities

Do you have questions about the new PRISM resource that the ATA developed for secondary education? Are you looking for ways to help students who may identify as LBGTQ+? Are you interested in becoming an ally? A presenter from our Local will be on hand to explain the document and to answer questions.

Please RSVP to [Maj-Britt Bigotti](#) by Tuesday, January 24th. [The session is on Jan. 25th at Bev Facey.](#)

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Edmonton Catholic Teachers' Local #54 are hosting a special event and have opened the event to teachers from Elk Island Public Local #28.

On Thursday, January 26th, they will host a seminar focusing on developing your

professional image utilizing advice and guidance from a style consultant. [Tickets are \\$20 for members of Local #28.](#) Dress code is semi-formal.

CLAUSE 9.5 FUNDING

Term 2 of funding covers professional development occurring between February 1, 201 and August 31, 2017. Currently there is a balance of \$73 000 available to be accessed by members.

YOUTH AND TECHNOLOGY

Two great sessions addressing the complexities for students of having an online presence and being involved with social media have been scheduled.

[Big Data, Little Kids: Privacy, Networks and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age](#) is being hosted by the Educational Technology Council of the ATA on January 26th. Tickets are \$10 for the event which will be held at Barnett House.

The other session is part of Parent Night during our convention. Amber MacArthur will speak about [Cybersecurity and the Next Generation: 10 Steps to Privacy, Safety and](#)

[Citizenship.](#) This lecture will be held at Festival Place and tickets cost \$10.

FUNSPIEL

[The event will be held at Ottewell Curling Club on March 4th.](#) A team of 4 can register for \$160. The registration fee includes food, prizes and at least 16 ends of curling for each team. There will also be a trophy for the champs!!

Payment is due and registrations close on Feb. 1st. Register your team with [Kyle Samaratunga.](#)

GRANTS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Have you ever wanted to attend a specialist council conference but had used up your clause 9.5 funds?

Did you know that the ATA Educational Trust Specialist Council Conference Grant awards qualified members (selected by a draw) \$500

towards conference costs?

ATA members may also qualify for scholarships which can be used if

a person is planning to take courses towards a Master's or Doctoral degree. Check out [all of the available grants, awards and scholarships.](#)



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

January 25th

[Secondary Prism Resource Information Session](#) – 6 to 8pm at Bev Facey

January 26th

[Dress for Success](#) – 6:30 to 9pm at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club

January 26th

[Big Data, Little Kids: Privacy, Networks and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age](#) – 6 to 9pm at Barnett House

February 8th

[NCTCA Presidents' Social](#) – 8 to 11pm at the McLeod Tavern

February 9th

[Cybersecurity and the Next Generation: 10 Steps to Privacy, Safety and Citizenship](#) – 7pm at Festival Place

February 9th and 10th

[North Central Teachers' Convention](#)

February 13th

[Edmonton Catholic Local #54](#) is holding a [GSA](#) meeting at Barnett House from 4:30 to 6:00.

February 15th

[Candidate Forum](#) – 7 to 9 pm at the Enjoy Centre in St. Albert

March 4th

[Local #28 Funspiel](#) – 1 to 7pm at the Ottewell Curling Club

March 11th

[Pension Seminar](#) – 9am to 4pm at Bev Facey High School



LINKS AND IDEAS

February Resources

by Irene Deatcher

It is almost 100 Day! The 2Learn site has great links to [ideas for stations and classroom activities!](#)

There is even a list of online interactive sites for the students. [This blog list 10 great ideas](#) (including using the 'Oldify' app on your phone to age your students) to make your celebration special.

For Valentintine's Day, 2Learn [has resources for crafts, cards, poetry and ways to say "I love you"](#) in different languages. Visit the Scholastic site to find [many links to](#)

[themed blogs and resources.](#)

Don't forget about Groundhog Day! Watch for results on the [Groundhog Day Roundup site](#) which will gather information from 6 different expert rodents – you can check the archives for predictions from other years. [Activity Village](#) has some resources and a cute 'pop-up groundhog craft.

LOCAL EXECUTIVE

President:

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lynndale08@gmail.com

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deatcher.ata@gmail.com

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Maj-britt@shaw.ca

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Treasurer:

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Karen Atkinson
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ka88@telus.net

Professional Development Chair:

Janet Vader
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Teacher Board Advisory Committee Chair:

Deneen Zielke
(school) 780-467-2246
dkzielke@shaw.ca

Secretary:

Tyson Parker
(school) 780-416-9018
tysonbparker@gmail.com

District Representative:

Paul Froese
cell: 780-951-2461
Paul.Froese@teachers.ab.ca

The Bugler ATA Local #28

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?



For policy concerns, working conditions and issues related to how things operate in EIPS contact the Teacher Board Advisory Committee (TBAC):

Deneen Zielke
(school) 780-467-2246
dkzielke@shaw.ca

For questions about ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) that are not answered on [the website](#) or for questions about SCRТА ([Strathcona County Teachers' Association](#)):

Inge Coates
scrta@shaw.ca

For pay issues, leaves and anything related to the [collective agreement](#), contact the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) or the Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC):

Jennifer Fredeen EPC
780-217-3197
jennifer.fredeen@gmail.com

Linda Butler Dunn – EPC
780-281-0850
butlerdunn@gmail.com
Karen Atkinson (NSC)
cell: 780-915-6168
ka88@telus.net

For professional conduct issues, contract concerns and employment issues, contact the [ATA at Barnett House](#):

The Alberta Teachers' Association
780-447-9400
OR
1-800-232-7208